X-MEN/ETERNALS: MANIFEST DESTINY

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SERSI



IKARIS



DRUIG



ZURAS



MAKKARI

PREVIOUSLY IN ETERNALS



JACK

EXISTING FOR UNTOLD CENTURIES, THE ETERNALS - NEAR IMMORTAL BEINGS CREATED BY THE WORLD-JUDGING CELESTIALS - HAVE PROTECTED EARTH THROUGHOUT WRITTEN HISTORY. OFTEN REVERED AS GODS, THESE MIGHTY EGOS HAVE FILLED THE COURTS OF THEIR HOME OLYMPIA WITH TREACHERY. MOST ETERNALS REMAIN LOYAL TO THEIR LEADER, ZURAS, BUT THE AMBITIOUS DRUIG HAS HIS OWN DESIGNS FOR A NEW WORLD ORDER.

DRUIG'S BID FOR DOMINATION WAS DIVERTED THANKS TO THE SELF-SACRIFICE OF THE BEAUTIFUL SERSI. IN THE WAKE OF HER DEATH, THE STALWART IKARIS HAS RENOUNCED HIS TIES TO THE ETERNALS, SWEARING HE WILL HAVE HIS REVENGE ON THE TRAITOR...



...AND SO BEGAN AN EPIC, CONTINENT-SPANNING BATTLE BETWEEN THE MOST NOBLE AND MOST VENOMOUS OF THE ETERNALS. AS THE FIGHT MOVED FROM VOROZHEIKA TO SAN FRANCISCO, DRUIG AND HIS ARMY OF FOLLOWERS SEEMED TO GAIN THE UPPER HAND AGAINST THE LONE DEMI-GOD. BUT NOTHING COULD PREPARE DRUIG FOR IKARIS' SURPRISE BACKUP—THE ASTONISHING X-MEN!

MEANWHILE, THE SEEMINGLY DEAD SERSI AWAKENS IN A STRANGE CANTINA CALLED THE VESTIBULE, WHERE A KNOWING BARTENDER NAMED JACK OFFERS HER A SMILE, A MARTINI, AND THE SECRETS OF LIFE AFTER DEATH FOR AN ETERNAL...

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SAN FRANCISCO.

ZURAS HAD THIS HUMAN FRIEND NAMED **PLATO...**

I WASN'T A HUGE FAN. INTELLECTUAL SNOB. REEKED OF GARLIC...

...BUT HE SAID SOMETHING TO ME ONE TIME, SOMETHING SO INCREDIBLY **SIMPLE,** I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST BEING CONDESCENDING...

"IKARIS," HE SAID, "THE **BEGINNING** IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE WORK."

AND THIS IS ONE **HELL** OF A BEGINNING.

ANGEL

CYCLOPS

IKARIS

COLOSSUS

BEAST

AWWW, THEY DON'T LOOK SO TOUGH TO ME.

WOLVERINE

PIXIE

PANNIX

DRUIG

VAMPIRO

LEGBA

AKPAXA

ERAMIS

MUTANTS? YOU BRING **MUTANTS?**

NOW **THAT...**IS JUST... SAD.

LOOK, HE'S GOT LITTLE **EYE BEAMS!**

ZZZRROOMPHH!






MANIFEST DESTINY
PART TWO
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JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER
NEITHER DO YOU.





...YOU'VE GOT TO WORK AS A TEAM.


YOU GUYS ARE GOOD.
SURPRISED?
IMPRESSED.
WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME WE IMPRESSED A GOD...
LET'S JUST MAKE SURE IT'S NOT THE LAST.
THEN LET'S DO THIS!

350 MILLION MILES FROM EARTH.

I PRESENT MYSELF TO YOU, HORDE, WITHOUT MALICE OR PRETENSE.

THEN YOU ARE A FOOL, CELESTIAL.

IF YOU STRIKE ME DOWN UNDER SUCH QUESTIONABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE FULCRUM WILL KNOW AND PUNISH YOU ACCORDINGLY.

THE ALL-HIGH FULCRUM WILL PUNISH YOU, CELESTIAL. YOU ARE NOT TO SPEAK. IT IS NOT YOUR FUNCTION.

YOU ARE TO STAND ASIDE.

TRUE. I WISH ONLY TO ALERT YOU TO A POTENTIAL GRAVE/FATAL ERROR.

ERROR?

DUE TO UNKNOWN CIRCUMSTANCES, EARTH'S SENTIENT EVOLUTION HAS NOT BEEN MAINTAINED/CULLED/CONTAINED. THE RAW ENERGY OF THEIR AGGREGATE LIFE FORCE IS UNPRECEDENTED.

TO HARVEST IT COULD EXCEED YOUR MAXIMUM STORAGE SPECIFICATIONS.

MAXIMUM?

STORAGE?

SPECIFI-CATIONS?


WHAT WILL OCCUR IF HORDE STORAGE SPECIFI-CATIONS ARE EXCEEDED?
IMMOLATION OF ALL MATTER IN THIS GALAXY QUADRANT.
MESSAGE COMPLETE. MY FUNCTION IS FULFILLED. I WILL NOW STAND ASIDE. YOU MAY INITIATE HARVEST AT YOUR OWN RISK.



YOU MAY INITIATE HARVEST AT YOUR OWN RISK.
WE HEARD YOU! WE ARE STILL PROCESSING...

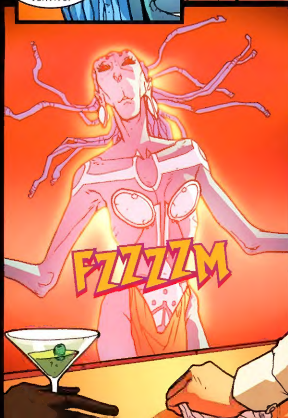
THE VESTIBULE.
SO, DELINOCUS--
RIGHT. SO WHAT'D THE CRAZY BUG THINGS WANT?
DOMINO-CANICUS.
WE KNEW NOT WHAT THEY WERE OR WHAT THEY WANTED.
NO WARNING CAME. THIS VAST... HORDE ELUDED ALL MEANS OF DETECTION AND DESTROYED OUR ORBITAL PATROL VESSELS.
THE FIRST WAVE BLOCKED OUT OUR SECOND SUN, AND BLANKETED OUR ATMOS-PHERE WITH THEIR LARGER BEINGS.


MYSELF AND A FEW OTHERS WERE ABLE TO CLEAR A PATH THROUGH THE SLAUGHTER FOR BUT ONE TRANS-VERSAL CARRIER.
ONLY ONE?
THE REST HAD BEEN DESTROYED. I WAS STRUCK DOWN BEFORE I COULD BOARD.

THE LAST THING I WITNESSED WAS THAT SHIP HITTING HYPERSPACE AND DISAPPEARING.
MY PEOPLE WERE LIVING IN PEACE ON A PLANET THAT COMFORTABLY SUPPORTED ALL THREE TRILLION OF US.

NOW, IN THE COLD VOID OF SPACE, A MERE EIGHTY-SEVEN STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE.

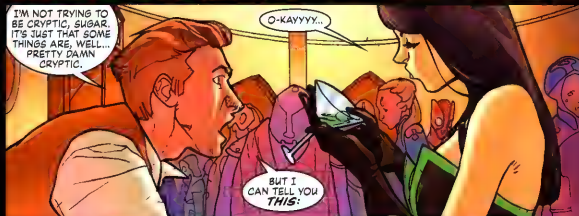
A TOAST TO THE PLANET OF RON-SHOR!
MAY HER SURVIVORS LIVE ON FOR ETERNITY!

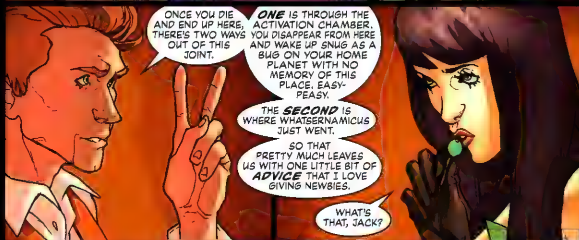
I THINK I'M READY TO GO NOW.

FZZZZM

BOY-OH-BOY. THAT YARN WAS A REAL RIPPER, HUH, SERSI?
JACK, DID YOU JUST...?
JUST WHAT?
SEE THAT?


SHE FINISHED HER STORY. SHE WAS READY TO GO.
SHE LEFT.


LEFT? LEFT WHERE?


I'M NOT TRYING TO BE CRYPTIC, SUGAR. IT'S JUST THAT SOME THINGS ARE, WELL... PRETTY DAMN CRYPTIC.
O-KAYYYY...
BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS:


ONCE YOU DIE AND END UP HERE, THERE'S TWO WAYS OUT OF THIS JOINT.
ONE IS THROUGH THE ACTIVATION CHAMBER. YOU DISAPPEAR FROM HERE AND WAKE UP SNUG AS A BUG ON YOUR HOME PLANET WITH NO MEMORY OF THIS PLACE. EASY-PEASY.
THE SECOND IS WHERE WHATSERNAMICUS JUST WENT.
SO THAT PRETTY MUCH LEAVES US WITH ONE LITTLE BIT OF ADVICE THAT I LOVE GIVING NEWBIES.
WHAT'S THAT, JACK?


SEEING AS HOW THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE WHERE A BODY CAN DRINK FOR FREE AND NEVER GET A HANG-OVER...
...I RECOMMEND YOU ENJOY YOURSELF.

ANTARCTICA. OLYMPIAN HEADQUARTERS.

OH, WOW.

ZURAS, TAKE A LOOK AT OUR GRAVITATIONAL SCANNERS.

WH-WHAT *IS* IT, THENA?

I DON'T KNOW.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING BLOT OUT THE ***ENTIRE*** SCANNING FIELD.

THAT'S BECAUSE THERE ARE, LITERALLY, MILLIONS OF THEM.

WHAT IS IT, MAKKARI?

THAT, MY FRIENDS, COULD BE THE ***END*** OF IT ALL.

THE HORDE IS HERE.


POUND-FOR-POUND, THE X-MEN ARE THE GREATEST TEAM THAT EVER EXISTED, AND THAT'S COMING FROM A GUY WHO NOT ONLY SERVED UNDER ALEXANDER THE GREAT, CAESAR AND NAPOLEON...
...BUT PERSONALLY KNEW EVERY PLAYER IN THE '85 CHICAGO BEARS.


IDIOT!
WHA-WHOMP!


WE ARE IMMORTAL! ETERNAL! KEEP SENDING US YOUR FREAKS--!


IF YOU INSIST...
WOOSH

KRACCK!

HRRRMPH!





GO TEAM.

WHAM

CELESTIAL IS CORRECT. THE LIFE FORCE ON THIS PLANET WILL FATALLY EXCEED OUR STORAGE CAPACITY.

THEN YOU WILL RETREAT.

NO. WE BYPASS STORAGE AND CHANNEL THE ENERGY DIRECTLY TO THE ALL-HIGH FULCRUM.


I WILL INFORM THE FULCRUM OF YOUR DECISION.
YES. DO INFORM.
THE HORDE OFFERS SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR YOUR WARNING, CELESTIAL.

NOW, LEAVE.

DO YOU DEFY US?




LIKE ALL MORTALS, EVEN THE BEST TEAMS GET TIRED.


SLIM!


UNFORTUNATELY, THAT WAS JUST THE **BEGINNING** OF THE WORK.
WOOOOSH


THANKS.
DON'T MENTION IT.
KRUNK

YOUR PEOPLE ARE GOOD, CYCLOPS.
YEAH, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE CAN KEEP UP THIS LEAP-FROGGING.
THAT'S FINE. I THINK IT'S TIME TO TURN THE SCREWS.
THEN I HOPE WHAT THEY SAY IS TRUE ABOUT YOU GUYS BEING *GODS,* IKARIS.
X-MEN, TAKE OFF THE KID GLOVES.


THEY GO NO FURTHER!


HOLD STEADY, ETERNALS! THESE MISCREANTS CANNOT KEEP FIGHTING FOREVER!


THEY DON'T NEED TO, COUSIN...


...THEY JUST NEED TO WEAR YOUR CREW DOWN.


BECAUSE, LET ME TELL YOU, I'M *TIRED...*


...TIRED OF FIGHTING YOU. TIRED OF LISTENING TO OUR LEADER ZURAS AND PLAYING BY THE RULES.
PLEASE, DRUIG. STOP THIS HATE AND JOIN ME.
I HAD OTHER PLANS, IKARIS.
I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE, DRUIG.


IKARIS, I THINK THE HORDE FINALLY MADE IT TO DINNER.
THEY'RE HERE, MY DEAR READER! THE HORRIFYING, THE HORRENDOUS...THE HORDE! WILL OUR HEROES EMERGE FROM THIS BATTLE VICTORIOUS, OR WILL THE ETERNALS FEEL THE COLD STING OF MORTALITY? STAY WITH US FOR THE FINAL CHAPTER IN THE ETERNALS SAGA ENTITLED:
"TO DEFY THE APOCALYPSE!"